

# Construction Stormwater Runoff: Technical Guidance to Comply With Regulations

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A new Public Works Technical Bulletin (PWTB), 200-1-35, is titled “Construction Discharge and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Requirements.” This PWTB identifies current compliance requirements and supporting information for stormwater runoff from construction activities and related NPDES requirements. Stormwater runoff control from construction activities is required under the NPDES and the Clean Water Act for all states. This PWTB identifies the applicable regulations for each state, lists requirements for the Construction General Permit and shares how individual United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Districts respond to these requirements.

Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 requires all Army installations and activities to comply with the Clean Water Act and NPDES regulations in addition to other applicable regulations and legislation. Corps of Engineers military and civil works Districts and Divisions oversee countless construction projects throughout the nation on military installations, the nation’s waterways, and recreation areas, as well



as a massive support program to Federal, state, regional, tribal, and municipal entities. NPDES requirements include notification of intent to obtain a permit and development of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) – acceptable to states and other regulatory agencies for each construction action – to mitigate impact from stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff from construction activities can significantly affect water quality. Runoff crossing and emanating from construction sites can pick up pollutants such as sediment, debris, and a variety of toxic and nontoxic chemicals (e.g., fuels,

paints, roofing materials, metals). The impact on receiving waters can include sedimentation, which destroys aquatic habitat and may contribute to changes in aquatic floral and faunal composition. Polluted stormwater runoff can harm or kill fish and other aquatic life. In addition, high volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion.

Operators of regulated construction sites must develop and implement SWPPPs and obtain appropriate permit coverage from states with primacy or from the U.S. Environmental Protection agency in non-primacy states. Details and web links are available in the PWTB for all states regarding permits and other requirements. The details of the Construction General Permit are also presented. A third appendix summarizes regulations and other guidance that Corps Districts use for stormwater from construction sites under their jurisdiction, including model language and specific regulations.

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